

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for increasing useable space within an aircraft
5 lavatory adjacent a passenger doorway area of the aircraft, the apparatus comprising:

a turntable module rotatably coupled to supporting structure of the aircraft
such that the turntable module is rotatable to first angular position in which the
turntable module is substantially within the lavatory and outside the passenger
10 doorway area and to a second angular position in which the turntable module is
substantially within the passenger doorway area and outside the lavatory; and

a sink supported by the turntable module such that the sink is accessible
from within the lavatory when the turntable module is in the second angular
position.

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2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a first shaft coupled to the turntable module for common rotation;

a second shaft coupled to supporting structure of the aircraft; and

a spacer positioned generally between the first and second shafts

20 to allow rotation of the first shaft and turntable module relative to the
second shaft.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein:

the first shaft defines a passage therethrough; and

25 the apparatus further comprises at least one flexible plumbing line
routed through the first shaft passage and in communication with the sink.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein:

the second shaft defines a passage therethrough;

30 the spacer defines a passage therethrough; and

the at least one flexible plumbing line comprises a first flexible
plumbing line routed through each said passage for communicating a fluid

to the sink, and a second flexible plumbing line routed through each said passage for communicating drainage from the sink.

5 5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sink includes a basin pivotably coupled to the turntable module such that the basin is pivotable to a deployed position and to a stowed position.

10 6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sink is supported by the turntable module such that the sink is accessible from within the passenger doorway area when the turntable module is in the angular position in which the turntable module is substantially within the lavatory and outside the passenger doorway area.

15 7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the turntable module is rotatable to an intermediate angular position in which an entryway is defined into the compartment.

20 8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a side portion of the turntable module is pivotably coupled to supporting structure of the aircraft such the turntable module is pivotable to an open position in which an entryway is defined into the compartment and to a closed position in which the entryway is closed.

25 9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the turntable module comprises a generally semi-circular cylinder rotatably mounted to a stationary portion of the compartment.

10. An aircraft comprising the apparatus of claim 1.

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11. An apparatus for increasing useable space within a mobile platform compartment adjacent a predetermined area of the mobile platform, the apparatus comprising:

5 a turntable module rotatably coupled to supporting structure of the mobile platform such that the turntable module is rotatable relative to the supporting structure;

the turntable module being rotatable to a first angular position in which the turntable module is substantially within the compartment and outside the predetermined area;

10 the turntable module being rotatable to a second angular position in which the turntable module is substantially within the predetermined area and outside the compartment; and

the turntable module supporting at least one item such that the item is accessible from within the compartment when the turntable module is in the second angular position.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:

a first shaft coupled to the turntable module for common rotation;

20 a second shaft coupled to supporting structure of the mobile platform; and

a spacer positioned generally between the first and second shafts to allow rotation of the first shaft and turntable module relative to the second shaft.

25 13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the turntable module supports a sink and accommodates at least a portion of a plumbing system in communication with the sink.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:

30 a first shaft coupled to the turntable module for common rotation, the first shaft defining a passage therethrough;

a second shaft coupled to supporting structure of the mobile platform;

a spacer positioned generally between the first and second shafts to allow rotation of the first shaft and turntable module relative to the second shaft; and

5 at least one flexible plumbing line in communication with the sink and routed through the first shaft passage.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein:

the second shaft defines a passage therethrough;

the spacer defines a passage therethrough; and

10 the at least one flexible plumbing line comprises a first flexible plumbing line routed through each said passage for communicating a fluid to the sink, and a second flexible plumbing line routed through each said passage for communicating drainage from the sink.

15 16. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the sink includes a basin pivotably coupled to the turntable module such that the basin is pivotable to a deployed position and to a stowed position.

20 17. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the apparatus comprises an aircraft lavatory adjacent a passenger doorway area.

25 18. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the turntable module is rotatable to an intermediate angular position in between said first and second angular positions wherein an entryway is defined into the compartment.

30 19. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein a side portion of the turntable module is pivotably coupled to supporting structure within the mobile platform such the turntable module is pivotable to an open position in which an entryway is defined into the compartment and to a closed position in which the entryway is closed.

20. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the item is accessible from within the predetermined area when the turntable module is in the second angular position.
- 5 21. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the turntable module comprises a generally semi-circular cylinder rotatably mounted to a stationary portion of the compartment.
22. An aircraft comprising the apparatus of claim 11.

23. A method for increasing useable space within a mobile platform compartment adjacent a predetermined area of the mobile platform, the method comprising:

rotatably coupling a turntable module to supporting structure of the mobile platform such that the turntable module is rotatable to a first angular position in which the turntable module is substantially within the compartment and outside the predetermined area and to a second angular position in which the turntable module is substantially within the predetermined area and outside the compartment; and

supporting at least one item with the turntable module such that the item is accessible from within the compartment when the turntable module is in the second angular position.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the mobile platform comprises an aircraft, wherein the predetermined area comprises a passenger doorway area of the aircraft, and wherein the method further comprises:

rotating the turntable module to the first angular position during taxi, takeoff, and landing; and

rotating the turntable module to the second angular position during cruise.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein supporting at least one item with the turntable module comprises using the turntable module to support a sink and at least a portion of a plumbing system in communication with the sink.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein using the turntable module to support a sink comprises pivotably coupling a basin of the sink to the turntable module such that the basin is pivotable to a deployed position and to a stowed position.

27. The method of claim 23, wherein supporting at least one item with the turntable module comprises supporting the item with the turntable module

such that the item is accessible from within the predetermined area when the turntable module is in the first angular position.